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RECORD GERMAN GRAIN CROPS The German Democratic Republic's 1984/85 grain production is estimated at a record 11½ million tons. And that, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture is 13 pct. above last year's previous record harvest. Wheat production is estimated at a record 4.3 million tons and total coarse grain production is estimated at a near-record 7.2 million. Favorable weather and near-ideal growing conditions accounted for the heavy production.

ARGENTINE OILSEED PRODUCTION AND AGREEMENT Argentina is expected to produce a lot of oilseeds during the 1984/85 season, in fact a record 9.9 million tons. Understandably the Argentines would like to sell large amounts to other countries. However, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report, purchases of Argentina soybeans by the Soviet Union are expected to fall short of the amount specified in the trade agreement between the two countries. The agreement for calendar years 1980-85 calls for annual shipment of 500,000 tons of soybeans. Right now it looks like the Soviets will purchase only 150,000 tons in calendar year 1984.

SOVIET MEAT PRODUCTION UP The U.S. agricultural attache in Moscow reports that state and collective farms in the Soviet Union continue to indicate good performance in most categories of livestock production for the first 9 months of 1984. Beef and poultry are each up 5 pct, and pork is up 10 pct. over 1983. Milk and egg production are up 2 and 3 pct. respectively. And animal numbers continue at high levels. Total cattle were reported at nearly 96 million head, up 2 million over last year. Hog numbers at 62.3 million head, were up 1 pct; poultry at 755 million were up nearly 2 pct.

THAT "POPULAR SPREAD" NOT SO POPULAR The European Community has a lot of butter. In fact, butter stocks grew sharply during the past year and in late September totaled 1¼ million tons. According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report, the EC Commission is taking two steps to reduce the stocks: A subsidized sale to EC customers of 200,000 tons of butter at half the support price, and permission for exporters who can handle 50,000-ton sales of butter to the Soviet Union or the Middle East at world market prices to buy an equivalent quantity of old butter at special low prices on condition that it can be exported to the same destination. This second scheme is of particular concern among several of the world's leading dairy exporters. Their concern is that it violates the minimum export price provision under the International Dairy Arrangement of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

EC WHEAT AND
BARLEY UPDATE

The European Community's 1984/85 wheat production is estimated at a record 74.2 million tons. That, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report, is more than 15 tons over last year's production. With barley, the EC's export authorizations now total nearly 3 million tons for the 1984/85 marketing year. That's over six times the amount authorized as of mid-October last year. USDA analysts estimate the EC 1984/85 barley harvest at a record 43.4 million tons, 20 pct. higher than last year's drought-reduced harvest.

AUSSIE/EGYPTIAN
GRAIN AGREEMENT

The Australian Wheat Board has announced a long-term supply agreement with Egypt to provide a minimum of 1.5 million tons of wheat each year for the 1985-89 period. However, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in calendar year 1985, Australia has contracted to supply 2 million tons to Egypt.

PRICES PAID
AND PRICES
RECEIVED DOWN

Farmers received 7/10ths of a percent less for their farm products during the last month, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report. Lower prices for cattle, hogs, corn, broilers and eggs were partially offset by higher prices for oranges, grapefruit, milk, lettuce and strawberries. On the other hand, farmers paid 6/10ths of a percent less for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates during the month. Prices for feed and fertilizer were lower. Partially offsetting these lower prices were higher ones for feeder cattle and calves and diesel fuel.

PSEUDORABIES
PROJECT REPORT

It can be done, but it may not stay that way. In a nutshell, that's the report from a five-state pseudorabies eradication project. The U.S. Department of Agriculture report said pseudorabies can be eradicated from swine herds, but they may not remain disease-free if there are infected herds nearby. The test was conducted in Illinois, Iowa, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin between April 1983 and March 1984.

ILLINOIS FREE
OF BRUCELLOSIS

Illinois is the 26th State to eradicate brucellosis in swine, according to Bert Hawkins, administrator of U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Swine brucellosis is a highly infectious disease that is transmissible to humans through direct contact with infected animals.

MORE VEGGIES
THIS FALL

Three percent more acres were planted this year than last to the seven major vegetables of broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, lettuce and tomatoes, according to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast. Furthermore, the 1984 production of four major processing vegetables (tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans and green beans) is estimated 13 pct. above last year. Mushroom production also is expected to be up, 5 pct. more in the 1984/85 season than last year. And mushroom sales rose 11 pct. in the 1983/84 season from a year earlier. (For more information, call John Love at 202-447-7290.)

THE WORLD'S
BUSY BEES

A lot of honey, that's what the world's bees produce. And, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, total world honey production during 1984 is forecast at 940,000 tons. The amount of honey consumed in 1984 is expected to be larger than the amount produced.

FLOOD DAMAGE
TOUR

Ass't Sec'y of Agriculture Wilmer Mizell and other USDA officials spent two days in late October assessing the damage caused by floods in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. During the tour Mizell inspected all crops but was particularly interested in cotton and soybean damage.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE "Citrus Canker Update" ... USDA plant pathologist Stephen Poe focuses on the eradication efforts currently being taken to stop the spread of citrus canker in Florida. Victor Powell interviews. (241)

"World Export Situation" ... James Parker, Foreign Agric. Serv., comments on some of the issues currently facing American farmers. Jim Johnson interviews. (242)

"Agricultural Options" ... Randy Corley, Extension Serv., talks about agricultural options - what they are - and their importance to farmers and ranchers. Victor Powell interviews. (243)

"Oilseed Outlook" ... USDA economist Roger Hoskin focuses on the world oilseed situation - which continues to be dominated by large supplies. Victor Powell interviews. (244)

"Ridge Tillage" ... Gary Beaumont, Univ. of Illinois Cooperative Extension Serv., talks with agricultural engineers John Siemens and John Hummel about the advantages and disadvantages of ridge tillage. DeBoria Janifer introduces. (245)

MORE COUNTIES FOR AID Sec'y of Agriculture John Block has named another 15 counties as eligible for Farmers Home Administration emergency loans. The counties are in North Carolina and all suffered losses to a mixture of adverse weather, including drought, excessive rain, Hurricane Diana and windstorms. Farmers in the 15 counties have 8 months in which to apply for the loans to cover part of their production losses.

CHOCOLATE LOVERS REJOICE World cocoa bean production for the 1984-85 season is forecast at one and three-quarter million tons. That's a new record, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report and up 14 pct. from the drought-damaged crop last year. West Africa is expected to account for most of the increased production, primarily because of favorable rainfall during the development stages of that country's crop.

POULTRY IMPROVERS TO MEET The National Poultry Improvement Plan general conference committee will meet Nov. 15-16 in College Park, MD, to discuss poultry health and other poultry issues. The meeting is open to the public and begins at 9 a.m. both days in the Quality Inn.

NEW ORCHID IS A COMIN' If you've wanted to grow orchids but were afraid to try because you've always heard they required very exacting conditions and care, take heart. U.S. Department of Agriculture geneticist Robert Griesbach reports the new orchid, named Toyland, can be grown in regular potting soil and is easier to grow and care for than African violets. But before you rush down to your favorite garden center, be advised that the Toyland orchid won't be released for public sale for probably another year or so. (Griesbach's phone number is 301-344-3574.)

FRUIT FLY QUARANTINE LIFTED Beginning Nov. 2, fresh fruits and vegetables may once again move freely in the "Little Havana" section of Miami. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the action was taken because the Mediterranean fruit fly has been eradicated from Florida. The quarantine was imposed July 5 to prevent the spread of Medflies and restricted movement of about 80 types of produce and plants from the Miami area. Two-thirds of the area under quarantine was removed from the quarantine, Oct. 11. The regulated area included 81 square miles centered in the "Little Havana" section of Miami.

OFF MIKE

Don Wick is now the farm director at KLGR, Redwood, MN. He had been at KQAA, Austin, MN. He replaces Dean Augustin at KLGR, who, we understand, has left broadcasting ... Lee Kline (WHO, Des Moines, IA) is back from a two week tour in Greece, Israel and Egypt. He and his wife Lila (who works for a travel agency) headed a tour group of 14. Lee's observations are that Athens is no longer the clean and gracious city of history...and that you haven't seen a desert until you've been to Egypt ... The latest in the "how-to-do-in-a-combine" saga: Dan Staehr (KLIN, Lincoln, NE) reports he, too, drove a combine in a combine demolition derby. (Earlier we reported on Gary Wulf's venture in a similar event.) Dan's machine was called the KILN Killer Kombine, and Dan says he won 4th place the first day but got clobbered the second day right off and sat and just watched the rest of the event. Incidentally, Dan says he also came in for quite a bit of ribbing when he dressed up like a baby and helped raise funds for newly born triplets in town. He became known real fast as "Dan the Diaper Man," he says ... Gary Truitt (Brownfield Network, Centertown, MO) found out what it's like to be on the campaign trail first hand Oct. 24. He spent the day with the Mondale entourage on a swing through parts of Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. He said it really kept moving. In fact he had time to grab two doughnuts and a container of chocolate milk and that's all during the whole day ... Rob McCartney is the new farm director for the NTV Network, Kearney, NE ... Ralph Seeley (WMAQ, Chicago) is anchorman for the new "The Family Farm" weekly hour program being broadcast, via C-band satellite directly to farmers and rural residents with satellite downlink dishes. The new venture is produced by Seth Michaels, president of Sky-Tech Inc. in Chicago. Seth conducted a survey that determined there are between 750,000 and 800,000 home dishes. The first program premiered Oct. 20.

FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1431...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Doug Wakefield talks to USDA nutritionist Walter Mertz about the wonders of trace elements in the diet.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1420...(Weekly reel of news features) Weekly news highlights; New help for farmers; EC is producing record grain crops; Tree farms and animal power.

CONSUMER TIME #913...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) A protein boost for soybeans; Animal power still alive; A sheep's best friend; All's not well at the well; Danger from fuel tanks.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Nov. 13, World tobacco situation; Soviet grain situation and outlook; World ag. supply and demand; Weekly weather and crop report; Wed, Nov. 14, World grain situation and outlook; Cattle on feed; Thurs, Nov. 15, Wheat outlook; Fri, Nov. 16, World sugar and molasses situation and outlook; Milk production report. Dial the USDA National News Lines 202/488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.



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